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| 7590 HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY Intellectual Property Administration P.O. Box 272400 Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400 | | | EXAMINER DICKERSON, CHAD S | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/620,505 | CASSIDY ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Chad Dickerson | 2625 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8/23/2007.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1,2,7,12-14,21,22,27,32-34,41,42,44,45,47 and 48 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 3-6,8-11,15-20,23-26,28-31,35-40,43 and 46 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 16 July 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see page 16, filed 8/23/2007, with respect to the drawing objection have been fully considered and are persuasive. The objection of figures 20 and 21 has been withdrawn.
2. Applicant's arguments filed 8/23/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Since the Applicant did not address the objections involving the specification the specification objections are maintained.
3. Applicant's arguments, see page 16, filed 8/23/2007, with respect to claim objection have been fully considered and are persuasive. The claim objection of claim 32 has been withdrawn.
4. Applicant's arguments, see page 16, filed 8/23/2007, with respect to the 112 second paragraph rejections have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 112 second paragraph rejections of claims 2, 6, 11, 22, 23, 31 and 42 have been withdrawn.
5. Applicant's arguments filed 8/23/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In the Amendment filed on 8/23/2007, the Applicant traversed the rejection of the claims. The applicant traversed the rejection asserting that the reference of Simon '375 does not disclose the feature of the existence or identification of a set of digital images each having a pre-determined print size as well as the placement of images having an identified largest predetermined print size in an identified packing area. The Examiner disagrees with this assertion.

Referring to the feature of the identification of a set of digital images each having a pre-determined print size, the Examiner believes that this feature is performed. In the system of Simon '375, it is understood that the digital images in the system have a pre-determined printing size. In the system the size of the images placed on the layout can be considered as the print size since the image will be the respective size when printed. The print size is pre-determined since this size is determined by the source that obtained the image or photograph. In the system that obtains these images to place in a layout, the print size that has been determined by the source that obtained the image is identified and when the image is placed on a layout, it is checked, or identified to see if this image is the smallest or largest to be placed on the layout. Once the determination of the print size of the image has occurred, the normalization process may be performed to adjust the image in order to improve the placement of the image on the layout. The term "pre-determined print size" is being broadly interpreted since the nature of the image being placed has a print size that relates to the size of the image on the layout that can be printed and the size is pre-determined since the image set to be a certain size was set to that certain size by the source that obtained the image and sent that image to a database. This explanation can be found in the specification in paragraphs [0046]-[0057]. These paragraphs describe different pictures or images with different aspect ratios being used in the system. The different aspect ratios had to have been set sometime before the images arrived in the present system to be placed on a layout and because of this reasoning, the above claim feature is performed.

The Examiner also believes that the feature of the placement of images having an identified largest predetermined print size in an identified packing area is also performed. In referring to an image having the largest predetermined print size, the statement of large means that something is comparatively larger or bigger than something else. In paragraph [0050], the disclosure states that an image may be larger than the rest of the images being used to be placed on a page layout. This image can be considered as the image with the largest predetermined print size. This image is identified when the system is trying to compare this image to other images to guide the process of normalization. Once this image that may be the largest in print size compared to all the images that are used, it can be placed on a certain part of the layout, considered as the identified packing area. The layout at this point can have images already present on the layout or not. Once this large image is placed on the layout, it is then normalized with the rest of the images to make sure it does not spatially dominate overall layout and to give the layout a better aesthetic makeup. This performs the feature of having the placement of images having an identified largest predetermined print size in an identified packing area (see figs. 1-7 and paragraphs [0046]-[0058]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

6. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

7. Claims 23-26, 28-31 and 35-40 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Re claims 23, 26 and 31: the claims are towards a seemingly patentable computer readable medium. However, these claims are deemed to be non-statutory since the mere claiming of a computer readable medium with instructions is not a patentable process without a computer being used to realize the functionality of the instructions on the computer readable medium. It is suggested that the applicant modify the claims to ensure that the claim language reflects that the computer readable medium is encoded with instructions that are executed by a computer. The dependent claims are also rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 3-6, 8-11, 15-17, 23-26, 28-31, 35-37, 43 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Simon et al (US Pub No 2002/0040375).

Re claim 3: Simon et al discloses a method of organizing digital images on a page, comprising:

Identifying a set of digital images (i.e. in figure 5, the step 120 allows the images used to be arranged on a page format to be selected manually or automatically; see fig. 5; paragraphs [0049]-[0055]);

identifying a pre-determined print size for each of the digital images in the set (i.e. shown in the illustrated prior art image in figure 2 is a template with the identification of a pre-determined print size for each of the digital images to be used on the template. Since this template is used to identify pre-determined print sizes of the pictures to be used, this performs the above feature. Also, when the system is using the method of automatically placing pictures in the layout, the system chooses, or identifies, a certain pre-determined size on the overall layout to place the picture on the layout to be printed. With this pre-determined space, the images chosen have a pre-determined print size and this size is taken into account when placing the images on the overall layout. The print size of the images is used to assist the system in arranging the images in a more aesthetic manner. The images in the system have a pre-determined print size since these images were taken by different sources (i.e. digital camera or scanner) and these different sources defined the print size for the images and therefore, the pre-determined print size feature is performed. The system may then normalize the pictures to take away the left over white space on the overall layout when these images are placed on the layout; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0046]-[0055]);

defining a packing area (i.e. when the format of a page is selected in step 110, this is analogous to defining a packing area. In this step, the height and width of the

page is specified in order to define where and within a format the images are to be placed on the page; see fig. 5 and 6; paragraph [0049] and [0050]);

identifying a largest of the predetermined print sizes (i.e. shown in the illustrated prior art image in figure 2 is a template with the identification of a pre-determined print size for each of the digital images to be used on the template. Since this template is used to identify pre-determined print sizes of the pictures to be used, this performs the above feature. When the system is using the method of automatically placing pictures in the layout, the system chooses, or identifies, a certain pre-determined size on the overall layout to place the picture on the layout to be printed. In the system, an image may be identified as being much larger or smaller than the rest of the images. The image that is much larger than the others is considered as the image with the largest pre-determined print size. This image is identified when it is chosen to be placed on the layout and the smallest dimension of the image may be normalized in order to create a spatial balance between itself and other images used in the system; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0046]-[0055]);

if it will fit in the packing area, packing a digital image from the set having the identified largest pre-determined print size set in a first orientation in the packing area in a first trial pack (i.e. the amount of images placed on a page is determined automatically based on the layout and the amount of space that allows the images to achieve a spatial balance on the specified layout. If the image does not assist in creating a spatial balance or there is not enough room to fit an image on the page, the current image is not chosen automatically to be placed on the page. The system determines the size of

an area to place an image and judges whether that area should be packed with the image that will not overlap other images. This image has a certain print size that needs to be taken into account before placing the image in a certain place with other images. With this process being performed, this is an example of identifying an image with a pre-determined print size to place on the layout in order for the image to not be overlapping other images. Once the image is placed, it can be determined that this image is the largest image placed on the layout compared to the rest of the images. Next, the normalizing process occurs to make sure that the image that is the largest is normalized in some manner to create a better spatial balance in the layout and the amount of white space on the layout is minimized. Also, this process occurs until there can not be any more images laid out on the trial layout and a score is calculated for the trial layout; see fig. 7 and 11-14; paragraphs [0049]-[0055]); and

if it will fit in the packing area, packing the digital image from the set having the identified largest pre-determined print size in the second orientation in the packing area in a second trial pack (i.e. during the process that is illustrated in figure 7, the above process that occurs to the first or prior trial layout occurs to the new or the second trial layout. The new trial layout shows another orientation of the same images being used due to the specifications given by the aspect ration of the page format. Like the above explanation, this same system again determines the size of an area to place an image and judges whether that area should be packed with the image for another trial layout if the user has expressed dissatisfaction or the system compares to layouts with different scores. In this second layout, again the images with a pre-determined print size are

placed on the layout and these images are placed in a manner that will provide ample space for the image to be placed and not overlap any other images in the layout, and a normalizing process may occur to assist in improving the visual aspect of the layout. This process also again occurs until there can not be any more images laid out on the trial layout and a score is calculated for the trial layout; see fig. 7; paragraphs [0049]-[0055] and [0057]-[0063]).

Re claim 4: Simon et al discloses the method of claim 3,

wherein packing the digital image in the first orientation includes, if the digital image from the set having the identified largest pre-determined print size will fit in the first orientation, packing as many digital images from the set having the identified largest pre-determined print size as possible in the packing area in the first trial pack (i.e. the invention finds images of certain sizes that may fill the trial layout in an efficient manner. This may be a large or small sized image. The images chosen to fill the trial layout shown in figures 8-10 are either the same size or a different size and the feature of packing as many digital images of a certain size as possible in a certain orientation in a trial pack is performed. The images in the system that are used have a pre-determined size to be printed on the layout. The images are placed on the layout with a pre-determined size and these sizes can be the largest or the smallest to be placed and printed on the overall layout. The invention can pack large images, compared to other images, on a layout as long as the images do not overlap. These images can be packed until no other images can be placed on the layout anymore. Then, the process

of normalization may occur to make the overall layout have a better aesthetic look; see figs. 5-10; paragraphs [0049]-[0057] and [0059]); and

wherein packing the digital image in the second orientation includes, if the digital image from the set having the identified largest pre-determined print size will fit in the second orientation, packing as many digital images from the set having the identified pre-determined print size as possible in the second trial pack (i.e. when comparing which trial layout is the most efficient in figure 7, the same process that occurred to the first or prior trial layout also occurs to the new or second trial layout. The second trial layout is another orientation of the same images and therefore, the above feature is also performed. Since the same process for the first orientation occurs for the second orientation, the feature of identifying a set of images to place within a pre-determined print space is also performed. Like in the first orientation, the images in the system that are used have a pre-determined size to be printed on the layout. The images are placed on the layout with a pre-determined size and these sizes can be the largest or the smallest to be placed and printed on the overall layout. The invention can pack large images, compared to other images, on a layout as long as the images do not overlap. These images can be packed until no other images can be placed on the layout anymore. Then, the process of normalization may occur to make the overall layout have a better aesthetic lo; see fig. 5-10; paragraphs [0049]-[0055] and [0059]-[0063]).

Re claim 5: Simon et al the method, wherein:

identifying a largest of the pre-determined print sizes (i.e. shown in the illustrated prior art image in figure 2 is a template with the identification of a pre-determined print size for each of the digital images to be used on the template. Since this template is used to identify pre-determined print sizes of the pictures to be used, this performs the above feature. When the system is using the method of automatically placing pictures in the layout, the system chooses, or identifies, a certain image with pre-determined size to be placed on the overall layout to be printed. The image can be the largest or the smallest image out of the images chosen. This performs the feature of identifying an image with the largest pre-determined print size to be placed in the layout and placing the image or images on the page. The system may then normalize the pictures to take away the left over white space on the overall layout; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0046]-[0055]), comprises

identifying, from a set of digital images, a largest pre-determined print size that will fit in the packing area (i.e. although identifying the largest pre-determined print size is not specifically disclosed, it is performed by the device. With normalization, the largest sized image is isotropically scaled so that the shortest dimension of the image is equivalent to the other images used in the page format. The image with a certain size, which is identified, is the image that will create a spatial balance in the page format. This image can be the largest or the smallest size. The image will still be normalized to fit the image together with the other images to have the page format displayed to the user in a balanced manner. With the system automatically identifying the image with the largest pre-determined print size in group of chosen images to use, the system

takes this information in order to figure out a way to normalize the image so that the image does not dominate the entire image. This is an example of identifying the largest pre-determined print size of an image, packing the image in the layout, but also normalizing the image so that it does not dominate the overall layout. The image identified is considered to have a pre-determined print size since the source of the image determined the size of the image before the image was actually used in the current system shown in figure 1 to organize and pack images on a layout; see figs. 5-10; paragraph [0050]-[0057]); and

packing as many digital images of the identified largest pre-determined print size as possible comprises repeatedly packing digital images of the identified largest pre-determined print size in a given orientation until either another digital image of the identified largest pre-determined print size will not fit or no digital image of the identified largest pre-determined print size remains in the set (i.e. the invention finds images of certain sizes that may fill the trial layout in an efficient manner. This may be a large or small sized image. The images chosen to fill the trial layout shown in figures 8-10 are either the same size or a different size and the feature of packing as many digital images of a certain size as possible in a certain orientation in a trial pack is performed. The images are placed on the page layout until the images will not fit on the page in order to create a spatial balance. Also, because of the selection criteria listed in paragraph [0050], certain images do not remain since the images do not meet criteria set by the user. The other feature of no digital image of the identified size remains in the set is performed since the identified size may be associated with a time and date

and if the image of the above time and date criteria does not remain, the above feature is performed. With the system automatically identifying the image with the largest pre-determined print size in group of chosen images to use, the system takes this information in order to figure out a way to normalize the image so that the image does not dominate the entire image. This is an example of identifying the largest pre-determined print size of an image, packing the image in the layout, but also normalizing the image so that it does not dominate the overall layout. With the images identified, one, a couple, or all of the images may be considered as the largest in print size if these images are compared to the other images used in making up the layout. The images identified are considered to have a pre-determined print size since the source of the images determined the sizes of the images before the images were actually used in the current system shown in figure 1 to organize and pack images on a layout; see figs. 5-10; paragraphs [0049]-[0055] and [0059]).

Re claim 6: Simon et al discloses a method for generating trial packs from a set of digital images, each digital image in the set having a pre-determined print size (i.e. shown in the illustrated prior art image in figure 2 is a template with the identification of a pre-determined print size for each of the digital images to be used on the template. Since this template is used to identify pre-determined print sizes of the pictures to be used, this performs the above feature. Also, when the system is using the method of automatically placing pictures in the layout, the system chooses, or identifies, a certain pre-determined size on the overall layout to place the picture on the layout to be printed.

With this pre-determined space, the images chosen have a pre-determined print size and this size is taken into account when placing the images on the overall layout. The print size of the images is used to assist the system in arranging the images in a more aesthetic manner. The images in the system have a pre-determined print size since these images were taken by different sources (i.e. digital camera or scanner) and these different sources defined the print size for the images and therefore, the pre-determined print size feature is performed. The system may then normalize the pictures to take away the left over white space on the overall layout when these images are placed on the layout; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0046]-[0055]), the method comprising opening a trial pack as an empty page (i.e. figure 6 is an example of an empty trial layout. This shows a view of the page in which the pictures of figure 3 will be placed; see fig. 3 and 6; paragraphs [0038] and [0050]); continuing, if possible, each open trial pack (i.e. the selection of the images placed on the trial layout are automatically selected based on the width, height or aspect ratio of the page. With the images chosen automatically, the images are continually placed on the page to fit the format chosen and normalizing of the images also takes place. The normalizing ensures that the images are distanced from one another in an equivalent manner to create a spatial balance between the pictures; see fig. 5; paragraphs [0049]-[0055]) and closing each trial pack that cannot be continued (i.e. once normalizing takes place, the images are placed to create a spatial balance. Once this is shown to the user for acceptance, the user has a choice to accept the layout or go through the page layout process again until an acceptable page layout is

obtained. The layout process is completed or closed once the user is displayed the new layout; see fig. 5; paragraphs [0049]-[0055]); and

repeating the continuing and closing until no trial pack remains open (i.e. when performing the process of comparing accepting a page layout, the process of continuing to apply images to certain layouts and closing the process of adding images because the layouts have the appropriate amount of images on a page is repeated until a user decides to accept a displayed layout. At the point where the layout is displayed is a point in which the trial layout is closed; see fig. 5; paragraphs [0049]-[0055]).

wherein continuing, comprises, upon determining that at least one digital image from the set that has yet to be packed in the open trial pack will fit in the packing area (i.e. in the system, a given number of images are to be laid out on a certain page layout. The system ensures that this given number is met. If this given number is not met for the layout, the system makes the determination and then looks for the image to be placed on the page layout to fit the given number of images on the page layout. This is an example of the continuing function occurring in the system; see figs. 5-10; paragraphs [0050]-[0064]):

identifying a largest pre-determined print size of a digital image remaining in the set that will fit in the packing area (i.e. shown in the illustrated prior art image in figure 2 is a template with the identification of a pre-determined print size for each of the digital images to be used on the template. Since this template is used to identify pre-determined print sizes of the pictures to be used, this performs the above feature. Also, when the system is using the method of automatically placing

pictures in the layout, the system chooses, or identifies, a certain pre-determined size on the overall layout to place the picture on the layout to be printed. With this pre-determined space, the images chosen have a pre-determined print size and this size is taken into account when placing the images on the overall layout. The print size of the images is used to assist the system in arranging the images in a more aesthetic manner. The images in the system have a pre-determined print size since these images were taken by different sources (i.e. digital camera or scanner) and these different sources defined the print size for the images and therefore, the pre-determined print size feature is performed. The system may then normalize the pictures to take away the left over white space on the overall layout when these images are placed on the layout. With the system able to manually or automatically choose images to be placed on a layout, a last image that can fit a remaining space on the layout may be chosen. This image may be the largest pre-determined print size that is able to fit that particular space in the image. When looking at figure 14, the cross-hatched space may be used to fit a certain image and the image chosen may be the largest print size available to fit in that area. When the system is using the method of automatically placing pictures in the layout, the system chooses, or identifies, a certain pre-determined size on the overall layout to place the picture on the layout to be printed. In the system, an image may be identified as being much larger or smaller than the rest of the images. The image that is much larger than the others is considered as the image with the largest pre-determined print size. This image is identified when it is chosen to be placed on the layout and the smallest dimension of the image may be normalized in

order to create a spatial balance between itself and other images used in the system; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0046]-[0055] and [0057]-[0067]);

if it will fit, packing a digital image of the identified largest pre-determined print size in a first orientation and continuing the open trial pack as a first child trial pack (i.e. the amount of images placed on a page is determined automatically based on the layout and the amount of space that allows the images to achieve a spatial balance on the specified layout. If the image with a pre-determined print size does not assist in creating a spatial balance or there is not enough room to fit an image on the page, that image is not chosen automatically to be placed on the page. When the first image with a pre-determined print size is chosen, another image with another pre-determined print size is chosen to see if the first images together will create a spatial balance. If the images together create a spatial balance, other images are chosen until the presentation of an image will take the overall page layout out of a spatial balance. Then a score is created to represent the amount of space left on the page layout. The process described above is an example of continuing the trial layout as a child trial pack. The images chosen can be have the smallest or largest pre-determined print size, but the process of normalization is used to assist in creating the spatial balance in the system so that the image sizes do not become a problem to the overall appearance of the layout; see fig. 5, 7 and 11-14; paragraphs [0049]-[0057]); and

if it will fit, packing a digital image of the identified largest pre-determined print size in a second orientation and continuing the trial pack as a second child trial pack (i.e. during the process that is illustrated in figure 7, the above process that occurs to

the first or prior trial layout occurs to the new or the second trial layout. The new trial layout shows another orientation of the same images, which have the same pre-determined print sizes, being used due to the specifications given by the aspect ratio of the page format. Also, the above process of the continuing of the trial layout as a first trial pack is the same for the second trial layout. The second trial layout is continued as a second child trial pack; see fig. 5 and 7; paragraphs [0049]-[0057] and [0059]-[0063]).

Re claim 8: Simon et al discloses the method of claim 6, wherein:

packing the digital image of the identified largest pre-determined print-size in the first orientation comprises packing as many digital images of the identified largest pre-determined print size as possible in the first orientation and continuing the open trial pack as a first child trial pack (i.e. the amount of images placed on a page is determined automatically based on the layout and the amount of space that allows the images to achieve a spatial balance on the specified layout. If the image does not assist in creating a spatial balance or there is not enough room to fit an image on the page, that image is not chosen automatically to be placed on the page. When the first image with a pre-determined print size is chosen, another image is chosen to see if the image sizes together will create a spatial balance. If the print sizes of the images together create a spatial balance, other images are chosen until the presentation of an image will take the overall page layout out of a spatial balance. Then a score is created to represent the amount of space left on the page layout. The process described above is an example of continuing the trial layout as a child trial pack. Regarding the largest pre-determined

print size being chosen and packed, the images used can be the largest or the smallest in regards to the print size on the layout. The images may be the largest for the area designated on the layout for the image to be placed as shown in figure 17; see fig. 5, 7 and 11-14; paragraphs [0049]-[0055] and [0057]-[0067]); and

packing the digital image of the identified largest pre-determined print-size in the second orientation comprises packing as many digital images of the identified largest pre-determined print size as possible in the second orientation and continuing the open trial pack as a second child trial pack (i.e. during the process that is illustrated in figure 7, the above process that occurs to the first or prior trial layout occurs to the new or the second trial layout. The new trial layout shows another orientation of the same images, which has the same print sizes, being used due to the specifications given by the aspect ration of the page format. Also, the above process of the continuing of the trial layout as a first trial pack is the same for the second trial layout. The second trial layout is continued as a second child trial pack; see fig. 5 and 7; paragraphs [0049]-[0055] and [0059]-[0063]).

Re claim 9: Simon et al discloses the method of claim 8, wherein packing as many digital images of the identified largest pre-determined print size as possible comprises repeatedly packing digital images of the identified largest pre-determined print size in a given orientation until either another digital image of the identified largest pre-determined print size will not fit or no digital image of the identified largest pre-determined print size remains in the set (i.e. the invention finds images of certain sizes

that may fill the trial layout in an efficient manner. This may be a large or small sized image. The images chosen to fill the trial layout shown in figures 8-10 are either the same size or a different size and the feature of packing as many digital images of a certain size as possible in a certain orientation in a trial pack is performed. The images with certain print sizes are placed on the page layout until the images will not fit on the page in order to create a spatial balance. Also, because of the selection criteria listed in paragraph [0050], certain images do not remain since the images do not meet criteria set by the user. The other feature of no digital image of the identified size remains in the set is performed since the identified size may be associated with a time and date and if the image of the above time and date criteria does not remain, the above feature is performed. Regarding the largest pre-determined print size being chosen and packed, the images used can be the largest or the smallest in regards to the print size on the layout. The images may be the largest for the area designated on the layout for the image to be placed as shown in figure 17; see figs. 5-10; paragraphs [0049]-[0055] and [0059]).

Re claim 10: Simon et al discloses the method of claim 6, wherein closing comprises, for each open trial pack, closing that pack if no digital image from the set that has yet to be packed in the open trial pack will fit in the packing area (i.e. when performing the process of comparing and accepting a page layout, the process of continuing to apply images to certain layouts and closing the process of adding images because the layouts have the appropriate amount of images on a page is repeated until a user decides to

accept a displayed layout. The trial layouts are closed when the images selected create a spatial balance and any more images added to the layout may disrupt the spatial balance in the page format chosen. Therefore, when a page layout cannot have any images added to the layout because any page added will not fit in order to keep a spatial balance, then the page layout is closed; see figs. 5 and 7; paragraphs [0049]-[0055]).

Re claim 11: Simon et al discloses a method of organizing digital images on a page, comprising:

selecting a set of digital images, each digital image in the set having a pre-determined print size (i.e. in figure 5, the step 120 allows the images used to be arranged on a page format to be selected manually or automatically. Shown in the illustrated prior art image in figure 2 is a template with the identification of a pre-determined print size for each of the digital images to be used on the template. Since this template is used to identify pre-determined print sizes of the pictures to be used, this performs the above feature. Also, when the system is using the method of automatically placing pictures in the layout, the system chooses, or identifies, a certain pre-determined size on the overall layout to place the picture on the layout to be printed. With this pre-determined space, the images chosen have a pre-determined print size and this size is taken into account when placing the images on the overall layout. The print size of the images is used to assist the system in arranging the images in a more aesthetic manner. The images in the system have a pre-determined print size since

these images were taken by different sources (i.e. digital camera or scanner) and these different sources defined the print size for the images and therefore, the pre-determined print size feature is performed. The system may then normalize the pictures to take away the left over white space on the overall layout when these images are placed on the layout; see fig. 5; paragraphs [0047]-[0057]);

generating trial packs for the selected set of digital images (i.e. a trial layout is first determined when a layout of pictures is generated. Then another score layout is generated due to the rearrangement of the same photos in the previous layout. The cost function or white space scores are used to compare the two trial layouts and the scores are in relation to how much white space is left on the overall layout. The trial layout is considered as the trial pack; see figs. 6-10; paragraphs [0051]-[0061]);

opening a trial pack as an empty page (i.e. figure 6 is an example of an empty trial layout. This shows a view of the page in which the pictures of figure 3 will be placed; see fig. 3 and 6; paragraphs [0038] and [0050]);

continuing, if possible, each open trial pack (i.e. the selection of the images placed on the trial layout are automatically selected based on the width, height or aspect ratio of the page. With the images chosen automatically, the images are continually placed on the page to fit the format chosen and normalizing of the images also takes place. The normalizing ensures that the images are distanced from one another in an equivalent manner to create a spatial balance between the pictures; see fig. 5; paragraphs [0049]-[0055]) and closing each trial pack that cannot be continued (i.e. once normalizing takes place, the images are placed to create a spatial balance.

Once this is shown to the user for acceptance, the user has a choice to accept the layout or go through the page layout process again until an acceptable page layout is obtained. The layout process is completed or closed once the user is displayed the new layout; see fig. 5; paragraphs [0049]-[0055]); and

repeating the steps of continuing and closing until no trial pack remains open (i.e. when performing the process of comparing accepting a page layout, the process of continuing to apply images to certain layouts and closing the process of adding images because the layouts have the appropriate amount of images on a page is repeated until a user decides to accept a displayed layout; see fig. 5; paragraphs [0049]-[0055])

comparing the trial closed packs (i.e. at step 240 in figure 7, the two trial layouts are compared to see which layout has a greater score in relation to the cost function or white space. These trial packs cannot have any more images placed on them and are therefore closed when compared; see figs. 6-10; paragraphs [0057]-[0061]);

selecting a trial pack based upon the comparison (i.e. based on the comparison of the trial layouts and their associated scores, the trial layout with the lowest cost function or white space score is chosen; see figs. 6-10; paragraphs [0057]-[0061]); and

determining if any of the digital images from the set were not used in the selected trial pack, and if any digital images are determined to not be used, selecting the unused digital images as the set of digital images (i.e. in step 100, the digital images to be chosen are recognized to be in a database that stores the pictures. In step 120, images that are determined to be on the database that are not packed on the current page layout, are selected to be placed on the page. This process can be performed manually

or automatically. The images that are chosen in step 120 are images that are not placed on the page layout before that step has occurred; see fig. 5; paragraphs [0049]-[0055]) and repeating the opening, continuing, closing, comparing, selecting, and determining (i.e. when another trial layout is being compared to a previous trial layout, the steps of opening a new layout page, continuing to place the same images on the pages, closing the trial layout after another arrangement is created, comparing, selecting and determining are performed again or repeated. A trial layout may be repeated over several times, as illustrated in figure 5, until a desirable layout is displayed to the user; see fig. 5 and 7; paragraphs [0049]-[0055] and [0059]-[0063]):

wherein continuing comprises defining a packing area and upon determining that at least one digital image from the set that has yet to be packed in the open trial pack will fit in the packing area (i.e. in the system, a given number of images are to be laid out on a certain page layout. The system ensures that this given number is met. If this given number is not met for the layout, the system makes the determination and then looks for the image to be placed on the page layout to fit the given number of images on the page layout. This is an example of the continuing function occurring in the system. If a user is dissatisfied with the current layout, the system may redefine new areas to pack images and place those image in the new areas for packing while making sure that the designated number of images to be placed on the overall layout is still performed; see figs. 5-10; paragraphs [0050]-[0064]):

identifying a largest pre-determined print size of a digital image remaining in the set that will fit in the packing area (i.e. shown in the illustrated prior art image in figure 2

is a template with the identification of a pre-determined print size for each of the digital images to be used on the template. Since this template is used to identify pre-determined print sizes of the pictures to be used, this performs the above feature. Also, when the system is using the method of automatically placing pictures in the layout, the system chooses, or identifies, a certain pre-determined size on the overall layout to place the picture on the layout to be printed. With this pre-determined space, the images chosen have a pre-determined print size and this size is taken into account when placing the images on the overall layout. The print size of the images is used to assist the system in arranging the images in a more aesthetic manner. The images in the system have a pre-determined print size since these images were taken by different sources (i.e. digital camera or scanner) and these different sources defined the print size for the images and therefore, the pre-determined print size feature is performed. The system may then normalize the pictures to take away the left over white space on the overall layout when these images are placed on the layout. With the system able to manually or automatically choose images to be placed on a layout, a last image that can fit a remaining space on the layout may be chosen. This image may be the largest pre-determined print size that is able to fit that particular space in the image. When looking at figure 14, the cross-hatched space may be used to fit a certain image and the image chosen may be the largest print size available to fit in that area. When the system is using the method of automatically placing pictures in the layout, the system chooses, or identifies, a certain pre-determined size on the overall layout to place the picture on the layout to be printed. In the system, an image may be identified

as being much larger or smaller than the rest of the images. The image that is much larger than the others is considered as the image with the largest pre-determined print size. This image is identified when it is chosen to be placed on the layout and the smallest dimension of the image may be normalized in order to create a spatial balance between itself and other images used in the system; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0046]-[0055] and [0057]-[0067]);

if it will fit, packing a digital image of the identified largest pre-determined print size in a first orientation and continuing the open trial pack as a first child trial pack (i.e. the amount of images placed on a page is determined automatically based on the layout and the amount of space that allows the images to achieve a spatial balance on the specified layout. If the image with a pre-determined print size does not assist in creating a spatial balance or there is not enough room to fit an image on the page, that image is not chosen automatically to be placed on the page. When the first image with a pre-determined print size is chosen, another image with another pre-determined print size is chosen to see if the first images together will create a spatial balance. If the images together create a spatial balance, other images are chosen until the presentation of an image will take the overall page layout out of a spatial balance. Then a score is created to represent the amount of space left on the page layout. The process described above is an example of continuing the trial layout as a child trial pack. The images chosen can be have the smallest or largest pre-determined print size, but the process of normalization is used to assist in creating the spatial balance in

the system so that the image sizes do not become a problem to the overall appearance of the layout; see fig. 5, 7 and 11-14; paragraphs [0049]-[0057]); and

if it will fit, packing a digital image of the identified largest pre-determined print size in a second orientation and continuing the trial pack as a second child trial pack (i.e. during the process that is illustrated in figure 7, the above process that occurs to the first or prior trial layout occurs to the new or the second trial layout. The new trial layout shows another orientation of the same images, which have the same pre-determined print sizes, being used due to the specifications given by the aspect ratio of the page format. Also, the above process of the continuing of the trial layout as a first trial pack is the same for the second trial layout. The second trial layout is continued as a second child trial pack; see fig. 5 and 7; paragraphs [0049]-[0057] and [0059]-[0063]).

Re claim 15: Simon et al discloses the method of claim 11, wherein:

packing the digital image of the identified largest pre-determined print size in the first orientation comprises packing as many digital images of the identified pre-determined print size as possible in the first orientation and continuing the open trial pack as a first child trial pack (i.e. the amount of images placed on a page is determined automatically based on the layout and the amount of space that allows the images to achieve a spatial balance on the specified layout. If the image does not assist in creating a spatial balance or there is not enough room to fit an image on the page, that image is not chosen automatically to be placed on the page. When the first image with a pre-determined print size is chosen, another image is chosen to see if the image sizes

together will create a spatial balance. If the print sizes of the images together create a spatial balance, other images are chosen until the presentation of an image will take the overall page layout out of a spatial balance. Then a score is created to represent the amount of space left on the page layout. The process described above is an example of continuing the trial layout as a child trial pack. Regarding the largest pre-determined print size being chosen and packed, the images used can be the largest or the smallest in regards to the print size on the layout. The images may be the largest for the area designated on the layout for the image to be placed as shown in figure 17; see fig. 5, 7 and 11-14; paragraphs [0049]-[0055] and [0057]-[0067]); and

packing the digital image of the identified largest pre-determined print size in the second orientation comprises packing as many digital images of the identified pre-determined print size as possible in the second orientation and continuing the open trial pack as a second child trial pack (i.e. during the process that is illustrated in figure 7, the above process that occurs to the first or prior trial layout occurs to the new or the second trial layout. The new trial layout shows another orientation of the same images, which has the same print sizes, being used due to the specifications given by the aspect ration of the page format. Also, the above process of the continuing of the trial layout as a first trial pack is the same for the second trial layout. The second trial layout is continued as a second child trial pack; see fig. 5 and 7; paragraphs [0049]-[0055] and [0059]-[0063]).

Re claim 16: Simon et al discloses the method of claim 15, wherein packing as many digital images of the identified pre-determined print size as possible comprises repeatedly packing digital images of the identified pre-determined print size in a given orientation until either another digital image of the identified pre-determined print size will not fit or no digital image of the identified pre-determined print size remains in the set (i.e. the invention finds images of certain sizes that may fill the trial layout in an efficient manner. This may be a large or small sized image. The images chosen to fill the trial layout shown in figures 8-10 are either the same size or a different size and the feature of packing as many digital images of a certain size as possible in a certain orientation in a trial pack is performed. The images with certain print sizes are placed on the page layout until the images will not fit on the page in order to create a spatial balance. Also, because of the selection criteria listed in paragraph [0050], certain images do not remain since the images do not meet criteria set by the user. The other feature of no digital image of the identified size remains in the set is performed since the identified size may be associated with a time and date and if the image of the above time and date criteria does not remain, the above feature is performed. Regarding the largest pre-determined print size being chosen and packed, the images used can be the largest or the smallest in regards to the print size on the layout. The images may be the largest for the area designated on the layout for the image to be placed as shown in figure 17; see figs. 5-10; paragraphs [0049]-[0055] and [0059]).

Re claim 17: Simon et al discloses the method of claim 11, wherein closing comprises, for each open trial pack, closing that pack if no digital image from the set that has yet to be packed in the open trial pack will fit in the packing area (i.e. when performing the process of comparing and accepting a page layout, the process of continuing to apply images to certain layouts and closing the process of adding images because the layouts have the appropriate amount of images on a page is repeated until a user decides to accept a displayed layout. The trial layouts are closed when the images selected create a spatial balance and any more images added to the layout may disrupt the spatial balance in the page format chosen. Therefore, when a page layout cannot have any images added to the layout because any page added will not fit in order to keep a spatial balance, then the page layout is closed; see figs. 5 and 7; paragraphs [0049]-[0055]).

Re claim 23: Simon et al discloses a computer readable medium having instructions for:

identifying a set of digital images (i.e. in figure 5, the step 120 allows the images used to be arranged on a page format to be selected manually or automatically; see fig. 5; paragraphs [0049]-[0055]);

identifying a pre-determined print size for each of the digital images in the set (i.e. shown in the illustrated prior art image in figure 2 is a template with the identification of a pre-determined print size for each of the digital images to be used on the template. Since this template is used to identify pre-determined print sizes of the pictures to be used, this performs the above feature. Also, when the system is using

the method of automatically placing pictures in the layout, the system chooses, or identifies, a certain pre-determined size on the overall layout to place the picture on the layout to be printed. With this pre-determined space, the images chosen have a pre-determined print size and this size is taken into account when placing the images on the overall layout. The print size of the images is used to assist the system in arranging the images in a more aesthetic manner. The images in the system have a pre-determined print size since these images were taken by different sources (i.e. digital camera or scanner) and these different sources defined the print size for the images and therefore, the pre-determined print size feature is performed. The system may then normalize the pictures to take away the left over white space on the overall layout when these images are placed on the layout; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0046]-[0055]);

defining a packing area (i.e. when the format of a page is selected in step 110, this is analogous to defining a packing area. In this step, the height and width of the page is specified in order to define where and within a format the images are to be placed on the page; see fig. 5 and 6; paragraph [0049] and [0050]);

identifying a largest of the predetermined print sizes (i.e. shown in the illustrated prior art image in figure 2 is a template with the identification of a pre-determined print size for each of the digital images to be used on the template. Since this template is used to identify pre-determined print sizes of the pictures to be used, this performs the above feature. When the system is using the method of automatically placing pictures in the layout, the system chooses, or identifies, a certain pre-determined size on the overall layout to place the picture on the layout to be printed. In the system, an image

may be identified as being much larger or smaller than the rest of the images. The image that is much larger than the others is considered as the image with the largest pre-determined print size. This image is identified when it is chosen to be placed on the layout and the smallest dimension of the image may be normalized in order to create a spatial balance between itself and other images used in the system; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0046]-[0055]);

if it will fit in the packing area, packing a digital image from the set having the identified largest pre-determined print size set in a first orientation in the packing area in a first trial pack (i.e. the amount of images placed on a page is determined automatically based on the layout and the amount of space that allows the images to achieve a spatial balance on the specified layout. If the image does not assist in creating a spatial balance or there is not enough room to fit an image on the page, the current image is not chosen automatically to be placed on the page. The system determines the size of an area to place an image and judges whether that area should be packed with the image that will not overlap other images. This image has a certain print size that needs to be taken into account before placing the image in a certain place with other images. With this process being performed, this is an example of identifying an image with a pre-determined print size to place on the layout in order for the image to not be overlapping other images. Once the image is placed, it can be determined that this image is the largest image placed on the layout compared to the rest of the images. Next, the normalizing process occurs to make sure that the image that is the largest is normalized in some manner to create a better spatial balance in the layout and the amount of white

space on the layout is minimized. Also, this process occurs until there can not be any more images laid out on the trial layout and a score is calculated for the trial layout; see fig. 7 and 11-14; paragraphs [0049]-[0055]); and

if it will fit in the packing area, packing the digital image from the set having the identified largest pre-determined print size in the second orientation in the packing area in a second trial pack (i.e. during the process that is illustrated in figure 7, the above process that occurs to the first or prior trial layout occurs to the new or the second trial layout. The new trial layout shows another orientation of the same images being used due to the specifications given by the aspect ration of the page format. Like the above explanation, this same system again determines the size of an area to place an image and judges whether that area should be packed with the image for another trial layout if the user has expressed dissatisfaction or the system compares to layouts with different scores. In this second layout, again the images with a pre-determined print size are placed on the layout and these images are placed in a manner that will provide ample space for the image to be placed and not overlap any other images in the layout, and a normalizing process may occur to assist in improving the visual aspect of the layout. This process also again occurs until there can not be any more images laid out on the trial layout and a score is calculated for the trial layout; see fig. 7; paragraphs [0049]-[0055] and [0057]-[0063]).

Re claim 24: Simon et al discloses the medium of claim 23, having further instruction for:

identifying a largest image size that will fit in the packing area (i.e. although identifying the largest size is not specifically disclosed, it is performed by the device. With normalization, the largest sized image is isotropically scaled so that the shortest dimension of the image is equivalent to the other images used in the page format. The image with a certain size, which is identified, is the image that will create a spatial balance in the page format. This image can be the largest or the smallest size. The image will still be normalized to fit the image together with the other images to have the page format displayed to the user in a balanced manner; see figs. 5-10; paragraph [0050]-[0055]); and

wherein the instructions for packing the digital image in the first orientation include instructions for, if the digital image from the set having the identified pre-determined print size will fit in the first orientation, packing as many digital images from the set having the identified pre-determined print size as possible in the first trial pack (i.e. the invention finds images of certain sizes that may fill the trial layout in an efficient manner. This may be a large or small sized image. The images chosen to fill the trial layout shown in figures 8-10 are either the same size or a different size and the feature of packing as many digital images of a certain size as possible in a certain orientation in a trial pack is performed. The images in the system that are used have a pre-determined size to be printed on the layout. The images are placed on the layout with a pre-determined size and these sizes can be the largest or the smallest to be placed and printed on the overall layout. The invention can pack large images, compared to other images, on a layout as long as the images do not overlap. These images can be

packed until no other images can be placed on the layout anymore. Then, the process of normalization may occur to make the overall layout have a better aesthetic look; see figs. 5-10; paragraphs [0049]-[0057] and [0059]); and

wherein the instructions for packing the digital image in the second orientation include instructions for, if the digital image from the set having the identified largest pre-determined print size will fit in the second orientation, packing as many digital images from the set having the identified largest pre-determined print size as possible in the second orientation in the second trial pack (i.e. when comparing which trial layout is the most efficient in figure 7, the same process that occurred to the first or prior trial layout also occurs to the new or second trial layout. The second trial layout is another orientation of the same images and therefore, the above feature is also performed. Since the same process for the first orientation occurs for the second orientation, the feature of identifying a set of images to place within a pre-determined print space is also performed. Like in the first orientation, the images in the system that are used have a pre-determined size to be printed on the layout. The images are placed on the layout with a pre-determined size and these sizes can be the largest or the smallest to be placed and printed on the overall layout. The invention can pack large images, compared to other images, on a layout as long as the images do not overlap. These images can be packed until no other images can be placed on the layout anymore. Then, the process of normalization may occur to make the overall layout have a better aesthetic lo; see fig. 5-10; paragraphs [0049]-[0055] and [0059]-[0063]).

Re claim 25: Simon et al discloses the medium, wherein the instructions for:

identifying a largest of the pre-determined print sizes (i.e. shown in the illustrated prior art image in figure 2 is a template with the identification of a pre-determined print size for each of the digital images to be used on the template. Since this template is used to identify pre-determined print sizes of the pictures to be used, this performs the above feature. When the system is using the method of automatically placing pictures in the layout, the system chooses, or identifies, a certain image with pre-determined size to be placed on the overall layout to be printed. The image can be the largest or the smallest image out of the images chosen. This performs the feature of identifying an image with the largest pre-determined print size to be placed in the layout and placing the image or images on the page. The system may then normalize the pictures to take away the left over white space on the overall layout; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0046]-[0055]), comprises

instructions for identifying, from a set of digital images, a largest pre-determined print size that will fit in the packing area (i.e. although identifying the largest pre-determined print size is not specifically disclosed, it is performed by the device. With normalization, the largest sized image is isotropically scaled so that the shortest dimension of the image is equivalent to the other images used in the page format. The image with a certain size, which is identified, is the image that will create a spatial balance in the page format. This image can be the largest or the smallest size. The image will still be normalized to fit the image together with the other images to have the page format displayed to the user in a balanced manner. With the system automatically

identifying the image with the largest pre-determined print size in group of chosen images to use, the system takes this information in order to figure out a way to normalize the image so that the image does not dominate the entire image. This is an example of identifying the largest pre-determined print size of an image, packing the image in the layout, but also normalizing the image so that it does not dominate the overall layout. The image identified is considered to have a pre-determined print size since the source of the image determined the size of the image before the image was actually used in the current system shown in figure 1 to organize and pack images on a layout; see figs. 5-10; paragraph [0050]-[0057]); and

packing as many digital images of the identified largest pre-determined print size as possible comprises repeatedly packing digital images of the identified largest pre-determined print size in a given orientation until either another digital image of the identified largest pre-determined print size will not fit or no digital image of the identified largest pre-determined print size remains in the set (i.e. the invention finds images of certain sizes that may fill the trial layout in an efficient manner. This may be a large or small sized image. The images chosen to fill the trial layout shown in figures 8-10 are either the same size or a different size and the feature of packing as many digital images of a certain size as possible in a certain orientation in a trial pack is performed. The images are placed on the page layout until the images will not fit on the page in order to create a spatial balance. Also, because of the selection criteria listed in paragraph [0050], certain images do not remain since the images do not meet criteria set by the user. The other feature of no digital image of the identified size remains in

the set is performed since the identified size may be associated with a time and date and if the image of the above time and date criteria does not remain, the above feature is performed. With the system automatically identifying the image with the largest pre-determined print size in group of chosen images to use, the system takes this information in order to figure out a way to normalize the image so that the image does not dominate the entire image. This is an example of identifying the largest pre-determined print size of an image, packing the image in the layout, but also normalizing the image so that it does not dominate the overall layout. With the images identified, one, a couple, or all of the images may be considered as the largest in print size if these images are compared to the other images used in making up the layout. The images identified are considered to have a pre-determined print size since the source of the images determined the sizes of the images before the images were actually used in the current system shown in figure 1 to organize and pack images on a layout; see figs. 5-10; paragraphs [0049]-[0055] and [0059]).

Re claim 26: Simon et al discloses a computer readable medium having instructions for: selecting a set of digital images, each digital image in the set having a pre-determined print size (i.e. in figure 5, the step 120 allows the images used to be arranged on a page format to be selected manually or automatically. Shown in the illustrated prior art image in figure 2 is a template with the identification of a pre-determined print size for each of the digital images to be used on the template. Since this template is used to identify pre-determined print sizes of the pictures to be used,

this performs the above feature. Also, when the system is using the method of automatically placing pictures in the layout, the system chooses, or identifies, a certain pre-determined size on the overall layout to place the picture on the layout to be printed. With this pre-determined space, the images chosen have a pre-determined print size and this size is taken into account when placing the images on the overall layout. The print size of the images is used to assist the system in arranging the images in a more aesthetic manner. The images in the system have a pre-determined print size since these images were taken by different sources (i.e. digital camera or scanner) and these different sources defined the print size for the images and therefore, the pre-determined print size feature is performed. The system may then normalize the pictures to take away the left over white space on the overall layout when these images are placed on the layout; see fig. 5; paragraphs [0047]-[0057]);

opening a trial pack as an empty page (i.e. figure 6 is an example of an empty trial layout. This shows a view of the page in which the pictures of figure 3 will be placed; see fig. 3 and 6; paragraphs [0038] and [0050]);

continuing, if possible, each open trial pack (i.e. the selection of the images placed on the trial layout are automatically selected based on the width, height or aspect ratio of the page. With the images chosen automatically, the images are continually placed on the page to fit the format chosen and normalizing of the images also takes place. The normalizing ensures that the images are distanced from one another in an equivalent manner to create a spatial balance between the pictures; see fig. 5; paragraphs [0049]-[0055]) and closing each trial pack that cannot be continued

(i.e. once normalizing takes place, the images are placed to create a spatial balance. Once this is shown to the user for acceptance, the user has a choice to accept the layout or go through the page layout process again until an acceptable page layout is obtained. The layout process is completed or closed once the user is displayed the new layout; see fig. 5; paragraphs [0049]-[0055]); and

repeating the continuing and closing until no trial pack remains open (i.e. when performing the process of comparing accepting a page layout, the process of continuing to apply images to certain layouts and closing the process of adding images because the layouts have the appropriate amount of images on a page is repeated until a user decides to accept a displayed layout; see fig. 5; paragraphs [0049]-[0055]);

wherein the instructions for continuing include instructions for, upon determining that at least one digital image from the set that has yet to be packed in the open trial pack will fit in the packing area (i.e. in the system, a given number of images are to be laid out on a certain page layout. The system ensures that this given number is met. If this given number is not met for the layout, the system makes the determination and then looks for the image to be placed on the page layout to fit the given number of images on the page layout. This is an example of the continuing function occurring in the system. If a user is dissatisfied with the current layout, the system may redefine new areas to pack images and place those image in the new areas for packing while making sure that the designated number of images to be placed on the overall layout is still performed; see figs. 5-10; paragraphs [0050]-[0064]):

identifying a largest pre-determined print size of a digital image remaining in the set that will fit in the packing area (i.e. shown in the illustrated prior art image in figure 2 is a template with the identification of a pre-determined print size for each of the digital images to be used on the template. Since this template is used to identify pre-determined print sizes of the pictures to be used, this performs the above feature. Also, when the system is using the method of automatically placing pictures in the layout, the system chooses, or identifies, a certain pre-determined size on the overall layout to place the picture on the layout to be printed. With this pre-determined space, the images chosen have a pre-determined print size and this size is taken into account when placing the images on the overall layout. The print size of the images is used to assist the system in arranging the images in a more aesthetic manner. The images in the system have a pre-determined print size since these images were taken by different sources (i.e. digital camera or scanner) and these different sources defined the print size for the images and therefore, the pre-determined print size feature is performed. The system may then normalize the pictures to take away the left over white space on the overall layout when these images are placed on the layout. With the system able to manually or automatically choose images to be placed on a layout, a last image that can fit a remaining space on the layout may be chosen. This image may be the largest pre-determined print size that is able to fit that particular space in the image. When looking at figure 14, the cross-hatched space may be used to fit a certain image and the image chosen may be the largest print size available to fit in that area. When the system is using the method of automatically placing pictures in the layout, the

system chooses, or identifies, a certain pre-determined size on the overall layout to place the picture on the layout to be printed. In the system, an image may be identified as being much larger or smaller than the rest of the images. The image that is much larger than the others is considered as the image with the largest pre-determined print size. This image is identified when it is chosen to be placed on the layout and the smallest dimension of the image may be normalized in order to create a spatial balance between itself and other images used in the system; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0046]-[0055] and [0057]-[0067];

if it will fit, packing a digital image of the identified largest pre-determined print size in a first orientation and continuing the open trial pack as a first child trial pack (i.e. the amount of images placed on a page is determined automatically based on the layout and the amount of space that allows the images to achieve a spatial balance on the specified layout. If the image with a pre-determined print size does not assist in creating a spatial balance or there is not enough room to fit an image on the page, that image is not chosen automatically to be placed on the page. When the first image with a pre-determined print size is chosen, another image with another pre-determined print size is chosen to see if the first images together will create a spatial balance. If the images together create a spatial balance, other images are chosen until the presentation of an image will take the overall page layout out of a spatial balance. Then a score is created to represent the amount of space left on the page layout. The process described above is an example of continuing the trial layout as a child trial pack. The images chosen can be have the smallest or largest pre-determined print

size, but the process of normalization is used to assist in creating the spatial balance in the system so that the image sizes do not become a problem to the overall appearance of the layout; see fig. 5, 7 and 11-14; paragraphs [0049]-[0057]); and

if it will fit, packing a digital image of the identified largest pre-determined print size in a second orientation and continuing the trial pack as a second child trial pack (i.e. during the process that is illustrated in figure 7, the above process that occurs to the first or prior trial layout occurs to the new or the second trial layout. The new trial layout shows another orientation of the same images, which have the same pre-determined print sizes, being used due to the specifications given by the aspect ratio of the page format. Also, the above process of the continuing of the trial layout as a first trial pack is the same for the second trial layout. The second trial layout is continued as a second child trial pack; see fig. 5 and 7; paragraphs [0049]-[0057] and [0059]-[0063]).

Re claim 28: Simon et al discloses the medium, wherein the instructions for:

packing the digital image of the identified largest pre-determined print size in the first orientation include instructions for packing as many digital images of the identified largest pre-determined print size as possible in the first orientation and continuing the open trial pack as a first child trial pack (i.e. the amount of images placed on a page is determined automatically based on the layout and the amount of space that allows the images to achieve a spatial balance on the specified layout. If the image does not assist in creating a spatial balance or there is not enough room to fit an image on the page, that image is not chosen automatically to be placed on the page. When the first

image with a pre-determined print size is chosen, another image is chosen to see if the image sizes together will create a spatial balance. If the print sizes of the images together create a spatial balance, other images are chosen until the presentation of an image will take the overall page layout out of a spatial balance. Then a score is created to represent the amount of space left on the page layout. The process described above is an example of continuing the trial layout as a child trial pack. Regarding the largest pre-determined print size being chosen and packed, the images used can be the largest or the smallest in regards to the print size on the layout. The images may be the largest for the area designated on the layout for the image to be placed as shown in figure 17; see fig. 5, 7 and 11-14; paragraphs [0049]-[0055] and [0057]-[0067]); and

packing the digital image of the identified largest pre-determined print size in the second orientation include instructions for packing as many digital images of the identified largest pre-determined print size as possible in the second orientation and continuing the open trial pack as a second child trial pack (i.e. during the process that is illustrated in figure 7, the above process that occurs to the first or prior trial layout occurs to the new or the second trial layout. The new trial layout shows another orientation of the same images, which has the same print sizes, being used due to the specifications given by the aspect ration of the page format. Also, the above process of the continuing of the trial layout as a first trial pack is the same for the second trial layout. The second trial layout is continued as a second child trial pack; see fig. 5 and 7; paragraphs [0049]-[0055] and [0059]-[0063]).

Re claim 29: Simon et al discloses the medium of claim 28, wherein the instructions for packing as many digital images of the identified largest pre-determined print size as possible include instructions for repeatedly packing digital images of the identified largest pre-determined print size in a given orientation until either another digital image of the identified largest pre-determined print size will not fit or no digital image of the identified largest pre-determined print size remains in the set (i.e. the invention finds images of certain sizes that may fill the trial layout in an efficient manner. This may be a large or small sized image. The images chosen to fill the trial layout shown in figures 8-10 are either the same size or a different size and the feature of packing as many digital images of a certain size as possible in a certain orientation in a trial pack is performed. The images with certain print sizes are placed on the page layout until the images will not fit on the page in order to create a spatial balance. Also, because of the selection criteria listed in paragraph [0050], certain images do not remain since the images do not meet criteria set by the user. The other feature of no digital image of the identified size remains in the set is performed since the identified size may be associated with a time and date and if the image of the above time and date criteria does not remain, the above feature is performed. Regarding the largest pre-determined print size being chosen and packed, the images used can be the largest or the smallest in regards to the print size on the layout. The images may be the largest for the area designated on the layout for the image to be placed as shown in figure 17; see figs. 5-10; paragraphs [0049]-[0055] and [0059]).

Re claim 30: Simon et al discloses the medium of claim 26, wherein the instructions for closing include instructions for, for each open trial pack, closing that pack if no digital image from the set that has yet to be packed in the open trial pack will fit in the packing area (i.e. when performing the process of comparing and accepting a page layout, the process of continuing to apply images to certain layouts and closing the process of adding images because the layouts have the appropriate amount of images on a page is repeated until a user decides to accept a displayed layout. The trial layouts are closed when the images selected create a spatial balance and any more images added to the layout may disrupt the spatial balance in the page format chosen. Therefore, when a page layout cannot have any images added to the layout because any page added will not fit in order to keep a spatial balance, then the page layout is closed; see figs. 5 and 7; paragraphs [0049]-[0055]).

Re claim 31: Simon et al discloses a computer readable medium having instructions for selecting a set of digital images, each digital image in the set having a pre-determined print size (i.e. in figure 5, the step 120 allows the images used to be arranged on a page format to be selected manually or automatically. Shown in the illustrated prior art image in figure 2 is a template with the identification of a pre-determined print size for each of the digital images to be used on the template. Since this template is used to identify pre-determined print sizes of the pictures to be used, this performs the above feature. Also, when the system is using the method of automatically placing pictures in the layout, the system chooses, or identifies, a certain

pre-determined size on the overall layout to place the picture on the layout to be printed. With this pre-determined space, the images chosen have a pre-determined print size and this size is taken into account when placing the images on the overall layout. The print size of the images is used to assist the system in arranging the images in a more aesthetic manner. The images in the system have a pre-determined print size since these images were taken by different sources (i.e. digital camera or scanner) and these different sources defined the print size for the images and therefore, the pre-determined print size feature is performed. The system may then normalize the pictures to take away the left over white space on the overall layout when these images are placed on the layout; see fig. 5; paragraphs [0047]-[0057]);

opening a trial pack as an empty page (i.e. figure 6 is an example of an empty trial layout. This shows a view of the page in which the pictures of figure 3 will be placed; see fig. 3 and 6; paragraphs [0038] and [0050]);

continuing, if possible, each open trial pack (i.e. the selection of the images placed on the trial layout are automatically selected based on the width, height or aspect ratio of the page. With the images chosen automatically, the images are continually placed on the page to fit the format chosen and normalizing of the images also takes place. The normalizing ensures that the images are distanced from one another in an equivalent manner to create a spatial balance between the pictures; see fig. 5; paragraphs [0049]-[0055]) and closing each trial pack that cannot be continued (i.e. once normalizing takes place, the images are placed to create a spatial balance. Once this is shown to the user for acceptance, the user has a choice to accept the

layout or go through the page layout process again until an acceptable page layout is obtained. The layout process is completed or closed once the user is displayed the new layout; see fig. 5; paragraphs [0049]-[0055]); and

repeating the steps of continuing and closing until no trial pack remains open (i.e. when performing the process of comparing accepting a page layout, the process of continuing to apply images to certain layouts and closing the process of adding images because the layouts have the appropriate amount of images on a page is repeated until a user decides to accept a displayed layout; see fig. 5; paragraphs [0049]-[0055])

comparing the trial packs (i.e. at step 240 in figure 7, the two trial layouts are compared to see which layout has a greater score in relation to the cost function or white space; see figs. 6-10; paragraphs [0057]-[0061]);

selecting a trial pack based upon the comparison (i.e. based on the comparison of the trial layouts and their associated scores, the trial layout with the lowest cost function or white space score is chosen; see figs. 6-10; paragraphs [0057]-[0061]); and

determining if any of the digital images from the set were not used in the selected trial pack, and if any digital images are determined to not be used, selecting the unused digital images as the set of digital images (i.e. in step 100, the digital images to be chosen are recognized to be in a database that stores the pictures. In step 120, images that are determined to be on the database that are not packed on a page layout, are selected to be placed on a page. This process can be performed manually or automatically. The images that are chosen in step 120 are images that are not placed on the page layout before that step has occurred; see fig. 5; paragraphs [0049]-[0055])

and repeating the opening, continuing, closing, comparing, selecting, and determining (i.e. when another trial layout is being compared to a previous trial layout, the steps of opening a new layout page, continuing to place the same images on the pages, closing the trial layout after another arrangement is created, comparing, selecting and determining are performed again or repeated. A trial layout may be repeated over several times, as illustrated in figure 5, until a desirable layout is displayed to the user; see fig. 5 and 7; paragraphs [0049]-[0055] and [0059]-[0063]);

wherein the instructions for continuing include instructions for defining a packing area and upon determining that at least one digital image from the set that has yet to be packed in the open trial pack will fit in the packing area (i.e. in the system, a given number of images are to be laid out on a certain page layout. The system ensures that this given number is met. If this given number is not met for the layout, the system makes the determination and then looks for the image to be placed on the page layout to fit the given number of images on the page layout. This is an example of the continuing function occurring in the system. If a user is dissatisfied with the current layout, the system may redefine new areas to pack images and place those image in the new areas for packing while making sure that the designated number of images to be placed on the overall layout is still performed; see figs. 5-10; paragraphs [0050]-[0064]):

identifying a largest pre-determined print size of a digital image remaining in the set that will fit in the packing area (i.e. shown in the illustrated prior art image in figure 2 is a template with the identification of a pre-determined print size for each of the digital

images to be used on the template. Since this template is used to identify pre-determined print sizes of the pictures to be used, this performs the above feature. Also, when the system is using the method of automatically placing pictures in the layout, the system chooses, or identifies, a certain pre-determined size on the overall layout to place the picture on the layout to be printed. With this pre-determined space, the images chosen have a pre-determined print size and this size is taken into account when placing the images on the overall layout. The print size of the images is used to assist the system in arranging the images in a more aesthetic manner. The images in the system have a pre-determined print size since these images were taken by different sources (i.e. digital camera or scanner) and these different sources defined the print size for the images and therefore, the pre-determined print size feature is performed. The system may then normalize the pictures to take away the left over white space on the overall layout when these images are placed on the layout. With the system able to manually or automatically choose images to be placed on a layout, a last image that can fit a remaining space on the layout may be chosen. This image may be the largest pre-determined print size that is able to fit that particular space in the image. When looking at figure 14, the cross-hatched space may be used to fit a certain image and the image chosen may be the largest print size available to fit in that area. When the system is using the method of automatically placing pictures in the layout, the system chooses, or identifies, a certain pre-determined size on the overall layout to place the picture on the layout to be printed. In the system, an image may be identified as being much larger or smaller than the rest of the images. The image that is much

larger than the others is considered as the image with the largest pre-determined print size. This image is identified when it is chosen to be placed on the layout and the smallest dimension of the image may be normalized in order to create a spatial balance between itself and other images used in the system; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0046]-[0055] and [0057]-[0067]);

if it will fit, packing a digital image of the identified largest pre-determined print size in a first orientation and continuing the open trial pack as a first child trial pack (i.e. the amount of images placed on a page is determined automatically based on the layout and the amount of space that allows the images to achieve a spatial balance on the specified layout. If the image with a pre-determined print size does not assist in creating a spatial balance or there is not enough room to fit an image on the page, that image is not chosen automatically to be placed on the page. When the first image with a pre-determined print size is chosen, another image with another pre-determined print size is chosen to see if the first images together will create a spatial balance. If the images together create a spatial balance, other images are chosen until the presentation of an image will take the overall page layout out of a spatial balance. Then a score is created to represent the amount of space left on the page layout. The process described above is an example of continuing the trial layout as a child trial pack. The images chosen can be have the smallest or largest pre-determined print size, but the process of normalization is used to assist in creating the spatial balance in the system so that the image sizes do not become a problem to the overall appearance of the layout; see fig. 5, 7 and 11-14; paragraphs [0049]-[0057]); and

if it will fit, packing a digital image of the identified largest pre-determined print size in a second orientation and continuing the trial pack as a second child trial pack (i.e. during the process that is illustrated in figure 7, the above process that occurs to the first or prior trial layout occurs to the new or the second trial layout. The new trial layout shows another orientation of the same images, which have the same pre-determined print sizes, being used due to the specifications given by the aspect ratio of the page format. Also, the above process of the continuing of the trial layout as a first trial pack is the same for the second trial layout. The second trial layout is continued as a second child trial pack; see fig. 5 and 7; paragraphs [0049]-[0057] and [0059]-[0063]).

Re claim 35: Simon et al discloses the medium, wherein:

the instructions for packing the digital image of the identified largest pre-determined print size in the first orientation include instructions for packing as many digital images of the identified pre-determined print size as possible in the first orientation and continuing the open trial pack as a first child trial pack (i.e. the amount of images placed on a page is determined automatically based on the layout and the amount of space that allows the images to achieve a spatial balance on the specified layout. If the image does not assist in creating a spatial balance or there is not enough room to fit an image on the page, that image is not chosen automatically to be placed on the page. When the first image with a pre-determined print size is chosen, another image is chosen to see if the image sizes together will create a spatial balance. If the print sizes of the images together create a spatial balance, other images are chosen

until the presentation of an image will take the overall page layout out of a spatial balance. Then a score is created to represent the amount of space left on the page layout. The process described above is an example of continuing the trial layout as a child trial pack. Regarding the largest pre-determined print size being chosen and packed, the images used can be the largest or the smallest in regards to the print size on the layout. The images may be the largest for the area designated on the layout for the image to be placed as shown in figure 17; see fig. 5, 7 and 11-14; paragraphs [0049]-[0055] and [0057]-[0067]); and

the instructions for packing the digital image of the identified largest pre-determined print size in the second orientation include instructions for packing as many digital images of the identified pre-determined print size as possible in the second orientation and continuing the open trial pack as a second child trial pack (i.e. during the process that is illustrated in figure 7, the above process that occurs to the first or prior trial layout occurs to the new or the second trial layout. The new trial layout shows another orientation of the same images, which has the same print sizes, being used due to the specifications given by the aspect ration of the page format. Also, the above process of the continuing of the trial layout as a first trial pack is the same for the second trial layout. The second trial layout is continued as a second child trial pack; see fig. 5 and 7; paragraphs [0049]-[0055] and [0059]-[0063]).

Re claim 36: Simon et al discloses the medium, wherein the instructions for packing as many digital images of the identified pre-determined print size as possible include

instructions for repeatedly packing digital images of the identified pre-determined print size in a given orientation until either another digital image of the identified pre-determined print size will not fit or no digital image of the identified pre-determined print size remains in the set (i.e. the invention finds images of certain sizes that may fill the trial layout in an efficient manner. This may be a large or small sized image. The images chosen to fill the trial layout shown in figures 8-10 are either the same size or a different size and the feature of packing as many digital images of a certain size as possible in a certain orientation in a trial pack is performed. The images with certain print sizes are placed on the page layout until the images will not fit on the page in order to create a spatial balance. Also, because of the selection criteria listed in paragraph [0050], certain images do not remain since the images do not meet criteria set by the user. The other feature of no digital image of the identified size remains in the set is performed since the identified size may be associated with a time and date and if the image of the above time and date criteria does not remain, the above feature is performed. Regarding the largest pre-determined print size being chosen and packed, the images used can be the largest or the smallest in regards to the print size on the layout. The images may be the largest for the area designated on the layout for the image to be placed as shown in figure 17; see figs. 5-10; paragraphs [0049]-[0055] and [0059]).

Re claim 37: Simon et al discloses the medium of claim 31, wherein the instructions for closing include instructions for, for each open trial pack, closing that pack if no digital

image from the set that has yet to be packed in the open trial pack will fit in the packing area (i.e. when performing the process of comparing and accepting a page layout, the process of continuing to apply images to certain layouts and closing the process of adding images because the layouts have the appropriate amount of images on a page is repeated until a user decides to accept a displayed layout. The trial layouts are closed when the images selected create a spatial balance and any more images added to the layout may disrupt the spatial balance in the page format chosen. Therefore, when a page layout cannot have any images added to the layout because any page added will not fit in order to keep a spatial balance, then the page layout is closed; see figs. 5 and 7; paragraphs [0049]-[0055]).

Re claim 43: Simon et al discloses a method of organizing digital images on a page, comprising

a trial pack generator (i.e. a trial layout is first determined when a layout of pictures is generated. Then another score layout is generated due to the rearrangement of the same photos in the previous layout. The cost function or white space scores are used to compare the two trial layouts and the scores are in relation to how much white space is left on the overall layout. The trial layout is considered as the trial pack. Although a trial pack generator is not specifically disclosed, the feature is performed; see figs. 6-10; paragraphs [0051]-[0061]);

and a pack selector (i.e. in the system, depending on the score of the layout, a user or the system can selector a trial pack with the image packed in the trial pack. This

performs the feature of a pack selector; see figs. 5-10; paragraphs [0049]-[0064])

wherein:

define a packing areas (i.e. when the format of a page is selected in step 110, this is analogous to defining a packing area. In this step, the height and width of the page is specified in order to define where and within a format the images are to be placed on the page. Once an image is placed, the system has to determine which section in the image area should be used to place the next image. In the prior art section mentioned, figure 2 is described to define packing areas; see figs. 2, 5 and 6; paragraph [0049] and [0050]);

to open a trial pack as an empty page (i.e. figure 6 is an example of an empty trial layout. This shows a view of the page in which the pictures of figure 3 will be placed; see fig. 3 and 6; paragraphs [0038] and [0050]);

using a defined packing areas, to repeatedly continue, if possible, each open trial pack (i.e. the selection of the images placed on the trial layout are automatically selected based on the width, height or aspect ratio of the page. With the images chosen automatically, the images are continually placed on the page to fit the format chosen and normalizing of the images also takes place. The normalizing ensures that the images are distanced from one another in an equivalent manner to create a spatial balance between the pictures; see fig. 5; paragraphs [0049]-[0055]) and to close each open trial pack that cannot be continued until no trial pack remains open (i.e. once normalizing takes place, the images are placed to create a spatial balance. Once this is shown to the user for acceptance, the user has a choice to accept the layout or go

through the page layout process again until an acceptable page layout is obtained. The layout process is completed or closed once the user is displayed the new layout. When comparing the trial packs, the trial pack that is being arranged is opened until it is closed to be compared to the prior trial pack. This is an example of closing open trial packs that cannot have any more images added or rearranged so that the closed trial packs can be compared; see fig. 5; paragraphs [0049]-[0055]); and

wherein the pack generator is operable to continue each open trial pack (i.e. in the system, a given number of images are to be laid out on a certain page layout. The system ensures that this given number is met. If this given number is not met for the layout, the system makes the determination and then looks for the image to be placed on the page layout to fit the given number of images on the page layout. This is an example of the continuing function occurring in the system. If a user is dissatisfied with the current layout, the system may redefine new areas to pack images and place those images in the new areas for packing while making sure that the designated number of images to be placed on the overall layout is still performed; see figs. 5-10; paragraphs [0050]-[0064]) by

identifying a largest pre-determined print size of a digital image remaining in the set that will fit in the packing area (i.e. shown in the illustrated prior art image in figure 2 is a template with the identification of a pre-determined print size for each of the digital images to be used on the template. Since this template is used to identify pre-determined print sizes of the pictures to be used, this performs the above feature. Also, when the system is using the method of automatically placing pictures in the layout, the

system chooses, or identifies, a certain pre-determined size on the overall layout to place the picture on the layout to be printed. With this pre-determined space, the images chosen have a pre-determined print size and this size is taken into account when placing the images on the overall layout. The print size of the images is used to assist the system in arranging the images in a more aesthetic manner. The images in the system have a pre-determined print size since these images were taken by different sources (i.e. digital camera or scanner) and these different sources defined the print size for the images and therefore, the pre-determined print size feature is performed. The system may then normalize the pictures to take away the left over white space on the overall layout when these images are placed on the layout. With the system able to manually or automatically choose images to be placed on a layout, a last image that can fit a remaining space on the layout may be chosen. This image may be the largest pre-determined print size that is able to fit that particular space in the image. When looking at figure 14, the cross-hatched space may be used to fit a certain image and the image chosen may be the largest print size available to fit in that area. When the system is using the method of automatically placing pictures in the layout, the system chooses, or identifies, a certain pre-determined size on the overall layout to place the picture on the layout to be printed. In the system, an image may be identified as being much larger or smaller than the rest of the images. The image that is much larger than the others is considered as the image with the largest pre-determined print size. This image is identified when it is chosen to be placed on the layout and the smallest dimension of the image may be normalized in order to create a spatial balance

between itself and other images used in the system; see figs. 1-3; paragraphs [0046]-[0055] and [0057]-[0067]);

if it will fit, packing a digital image of the identified largest pre-determined print size in a first orientation in a packing area and continuing the open trial pack as a first child trial pack (i.e. the amount of images placed on a page is determined automatically based on the layout and the amount of space that allows the images to achieve a spatial balance on the specified layout. If the image with a pre-determined print size does not assist in creating a spatial balance or there is not enough room to fit an image on the page, that image is not chosen automatically to be placed on the page. When the first image with a pre-determined print size is chosen, another image with another pre-determined print size is chosen to see if the first images together will create a spatial balance. If the images together create a spatial balance, other images are chosen until the presentation of an image will take the overall page layout out of a spatial balance. Then a score is created to represent the amount of space left on the page layout. The process described above is an example of continuing the trial layout as a child trial pack. The images chosen can be have the smallest or largest pre-determined print size, but the process of normalization is used to assist in creating the spatial balance in the system so that the image sizes do not become a problem to the overall appearance of the layout; see fig. 5, 7 and 11-14; paragraphs [0049]-[0057]); and

if it will fit, packing a digital image of the identified largest pre-determined print size in a second orientation and continuing the trial pack as a second child trial pack

(i.e. during the process that is illustrated in figure 7, the above process that occurs to the first or prior trial layout occurs to the new or the second trial layout. The new trial layout shows another orientation of the same images, which have the same pre-determined print sizes, being used due to the specifications given by the aspect ratio of the page format. Also, the above process of the continuing of the trial layout as a first trial pack is the same for the second trial layout. The second trial layout is continued as a second child trial pack; see fig. 5 and 7; paragraphs [0049]-[0057] and [0059]-[0063]);

the pack selector is operable to compare closed trial packs generated by the pack generator, to select a trial pack based upon the comparison (i.e. based on the comparison of the trial layouts and their associated scores, the trial layout with the lowest cost function or white space score is chosen automatically. Although a pack selector is not specifically disclosed, the feature is performed. Also, with the layout having the ability to be chosen manually, the feature of a pack selector is believed to be performed by the manual function of the invention; see figs. 6-10; paragraphs [0057]-[0061]); and,

until all digital image from the set are used in one of one or more selected trial packs, to direct the pack generator to generate new trial packs for any digital images not used in a selected trial pack (i.e. in step 100, the digital images to be chosen are recognized to be in a database that stores the pictures. In step 120, images that are determined to be on the database that are not packed on a page layout, are selected to be placed on a page. This process can be performed manually or automatically. The images that are chosen in step 120 are images that are not placed on the page layout

before that step has occurred. Also in figure 7, other trial layouts are generated and images that are not in the presently generated layout are then placed on that layout to compare the current layout to a previous layout; see fig. 5 and 7; paragraphs [0049]-[0063]).

Re claim 46: Simon et al discloses the system of claim 43, wherein the packager is operable to, for each open trial pack, close that trial pack if no digital image from the set that has yet to be packed in the open trial pack will fit in the packing area (i.e. when performing the process of comparing and accepting a page layout, the process of continuing to apply images to certain layouts and closing the process of adding images because the layouts have the appropriate amount of images on a page is repeated until a user decides to accept a displayed layout. The trial layouts are closed when the images selected create a spatial balance and any more images added to the layout may disrupt the spatial balance in the page format chosen. Therefore, when a page layout cannot have any images added to the layout because any page added will not fit in order to keep a spatial balance, then the page layout is closed; see figs. 5 and 7; paragraphs [0049]-[0055]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 18, 19 and 38, 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simon et al in view of Shields (US Pub No 2003/0163786).

Re claim 18: The teachings of Simon et al are disclosed above.

However, Simon et al fails to teach the method, wherein defining a packing area comprises identifying a geometry of a packed space and defining a packing area according the geometry of the packed space.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Shields. Shields disclose defining a packing area comprises identifying a geometry of a packed space (i.e. the system checks to see if a region of sufficient size exists for the placement of an image. Any type of possible shape that is represented in figure 2 is recognized to see if the next available image can fit in the shape shown; see fig. 2; paragraphs [0012]-[0015]) and defining a packing area according the geometry of the packed space (i.e. the area is then designated as an area to pack images once an appropriate image of the defined size is found; see fig. 2; paragraphs [0012]-[0015]).

Therefore, in view of Shields, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to defining a packing area comprises identifying a geometry of a packed space and defining a packing area according the geometry of the packed space in order to check to see if a region is a sufficient size for an image to be placed (as stated in Shields paragraph [0014]).

Re claim 19: The teachings of Simon et al are disclosed above.

Simon et al teaches the method, wherein defining a packing area comprises identifying a packed space as rectangular (i.e. when looking at figure 2, it is clear that areas that will be packed with an image are or designated as rectangular; see fig. 2; paragraph [0048]), identifying left over spaces located diagonally, vertically, and horizontally relative to the packed space (i.e. when looking at figure 12, element 62 has left over spaces that are horizontal (273) and vertical (275) in relation to the packed space. Although identifying spaces diagonally is not specifically stated, it is performed by the device. When performing horizontal sorting, the packed space finds the next horizontal space and begins to pack that space with an image. If the next image that is chosen performs vertical sorting on the now second image process, it will identify the diagonal left over space of the first image that was processed horizontally in the beginning of whole horizontal process. Therefore, the feature of identifying the diagonal left over space is performed; see fig. 12 and 16; paragraphs [0063]-[0067]) and defining a second packing area as the remaining horizontal or vertical space (i.e. with horizontal and vertical sorting, a packing area or layout area can be defined as a horizontal or vertical space when performing the sorting process; see fig. 12 and 16; paragraphs [0063]-[0067]).

However, Simon et al fails to teach combining the diagonal space with either the vertical space or the horizontal space creating a combined space having a maximized small dimension, and defining a first packing area as the combined space.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Shields. Shields discloses combining the diagonal space with either the vertical space or the horizontal space creating a combined space having a maximized small dimension (i.e. looking at figure 2, the space that is left over after placing an image into a certain space is may be combined with another space, depending on the image size the system had waiting to place on the overall image. Any region of left over space after placing a plurality of images can be combined with other pieces of free space left over to create a region to fit an appropriate sized image; see fig. 2; paragraphs [0012]-[0015]), and defining a first packing area as the combined space (i.e. depending on how the images are oriented, space that is left over after the first batch of images are placed is combined to form spaces that may be used to have smaller images placed on the combined spaces. In the invention, the space is used efficiently by not only placing images in decreasing height in the overall image, but also to use the spaces left over to place even smaller images. Although it does not specifically say defining a first packing area as a combined space, the feature is performed since spaces between the placed images are combined to form a region in which images can be placed; see fig. 2; paragraphs [0012]-[0015]).

Therefore, in view of Shields, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to combining the diagonal space with either the vertical space or the horizontal space creating a combined space having a maximized small dimension, and defining a first packing area as the combined space in order to

check if the next image can be located in one of the openings between the other images (as stated in Shields paragraph [0013]).

Re claim 38: The teachings of Simon et al are disclosed above.

However, Simon et al fails to teach the method, wherein the instructions for defining a packing area include instructions for identifying a geometry of a packed space and defining a packing area according the geometry of the packed space.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Shields. Shields disclose the instructions for defining a packing area include instructions for identifying a geometry of a packed space (i.e. the system checks to see if a region of sufficient size exists for the placement of an image. Any type of possible shape that is represented in figure 2 is recognized to see if the next available image can fit in the shape shown. Although instructions are not specifically disclosed, it is clear that the system performs the feature of checking for a certain size of a region to place another image. Also, since a computer or some program performs the function above, instructions have to be given to such a program to perform the above feature; see fig. 2; paragraphs [0012]-[0015]) and defining a packing area according the geometry of the packed space (i.e. the area is then designated as an area to pack images once an appropriate image of the defined size is found; see fig. 2; paragraphs [0012]-[0015]).

Therefore, in view of Shields, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have instructions for defining a packing area include instructions for identifying a geometry of a packed space and defining a packing

area according the geometry of the packed space in order to check to see if a region is a sufficient size for an image to be placed (as stated in Shields paragraph [0014]).

Re claim 39: The teachings of Simon et al are disclosed above.

Simon et al teaches the method, wherein the instructions for defining a packing area include instructions for identifying a packed space as rectangular (i.e. when looking at figure 2, it is clear that areas that will be packed with an image are or designated as rectangular; see fig. 2; paragraph [0048]), identifying left over spaces located diagonally, vertically, and horizontally relative to the packed space (i.e. when looking at figure 12, element 62 has left over spaces that are horizontal (273) and vertical (275) in relation to the packed space. Although identifying spaces diagonally is not specifically stated, it is performed by the device. When performing horizontal sorting, the packed space finds the next horizontal space and begins to pack that space with an image. If the next image that is chosen performs vertical sorting on the now second image process, it will identify the diagonal left over space of the first image that was processed horizontally in the beginning of whole horizontal process. Therefore, the feature of identifying the diagonal left over space is performed; see fig. 12 and 16; paragraphs [0063]-[0067]) and defining a second packing area as the remaining horizontal or vertical space (i.e. with horizontal and vertical sorting, a packing area or layout area can be defined as a horizontal or vertical space when performing the sorting process; see fig. 12 and 16; paragraphs [0063]-[0067]).

However, Simon et al fails to teach combining the diagonal space with either the vertical space or the horizontal space creating a combined space having a maximized small dimension, and defining a first packing area as the combined space.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Shields. Shields discloses combining the diagonal space with either the vertical space or the horizontal space creating a combined space having a maximized small dimension (i.e. looking at figure 2, the space that is left over after placing an image into a certain space is may be combined with another space, depending on the image size the system had waiting to place on the overall image. Any region of left over space after placing a plurality of images can be combined with other pieces of free space left over to create a region to fit an appropriate sized image; see fig. 2; paragraphs [0012]-[0015]), and defining a first packing area as the combined space (i.e. depending on how the images are oriented, space that is left over after the first batch of images are placed is combined to form spaces that may be used to have smaller images placed on the combined spaces. In the invention, the space is used efficiently by not only placing images in decreasing height in the overall image, but also to use the spaces left over to place even smaller images. Although it does not specifically say defining a first packing area as a combined space, the feature is performed since spaces between the placed images are combined to form a region in which images can be placed; see fig. 2; paragraphs [0012]-[0015]).

Therefore, in view of Shields, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to combine the diagonal space with either the

vertical space or the horizontal space creating a combined space having a maximized small dimension, and defining a first packing area as the combined space in order to check if the next image can be located in one of the openings between the other images (as stated in Shields paragraph [0013]).

12. Claims 20 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simon et al in view of Doi et al (US Pat No 6208360).

Re claim 20: The teachings of Simon et al are disclosed above.

Simon et al teaches the method, wherein identifying a packing area comprises identifying a packed space (i.e. in the layout of the images in figure 5, the area where the image will be placed in identified either automatically or manually; see fig. 5; paragraphs [0049]-[0055]), maximizing a jagged space (i.e. shown in figures 8-10 are examples of the system maximizing the use of spaces that may appeared to be jagged or not completely rectangular. Through normalizing and scaling, the jagged spaces in figure 8 are maximized by the previous stated methods and is illustrated in figures 9-12; see figs. 8-12; paragraphs [0049]-[0055]), identifying remaining spaces that are located vertically and horizontally relative to the packed space (i.e. in fig. 16, the blank or white spaces located horizontally and vertically of the packed spaces are identified; see fig. 12 and 16; paragraphs [0063]-[0065]), defining a first packing area as the maximized jagged space (i.e. in figure 14, a crosshatched region is present. This region with the surrounding blank region around the crosshatched region is considered as a jagged

space. The user is utilizing this space in this arrangement, but can multiple different arrangements. However, this can be considered as the first packing area as the maximized jagged space since it is being used to pack some type of data and the crosshatched region is a large region being used in figure 14; see fig. 14; paragraph [0067]), defining a second packing area as the left over vertical space (i.e. in using the method of figure 16, an area is defined as the vertical white space or the space above or below the packed space; see fig. 12 and 16; paragraphs [0063]-[0065]), and defining a third packing are as the left over horizontal space (i.e. in using the method of figure 16, an area is defined as the horizontal white space or the space to the left or right of the packed space; see fig. 12 and 16; paragraphs [0063]-[0065]).

However, Simon et al fails to teach identifying a packed space as irregular.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Doi '360. Doi '360 discloses identifying a packed space as irregular (i.e. when viewing a 3D image, the irregularity of the shape is recognized by a distance measuring device; see col. 3, lines 52-58).

Therefore, in view of Doi '360, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to identifying a packed space as irregular incorporated in the device of Simon et al in order to recognize the irregularity of an image (as stated in Doi '360 col. 3, lines 52-58).

Re claim 40: The teachings of Simon et al are disclosed above.

Simon et al teaches the method, wherein the instructions for defining a packing area include instructions for identifying a packed space (i.e. in the layout of the images in figure 5, the area where the image will be placed is identified either automatically or manually; see fig. 5; paragraphs [0049]-[0055]), maximizing a jagged space (i.e. shown in figures 8-10 are examples of the system maximizing the use of spaces that may appear to be jagged or not completely rectangular. Through normalizing and scaling, the jagged spaces in figure 8 are maximized by the previous stated methods and is illustrated in figures 9-12; see figs. 8-12; paragraphs [0049]-[0055]), identifying remaining spaces that are located vertically and horizontally relative to the packed space (i.e. in fig. 16, the blank or white spaces located horizontally and vertically of the packed spaces are identified; see fig. 12 and 16; paragraphs [0063]-[0065]), defining a first packing area as the maximized jagged space (i.e. in figure 14, a crosshatched region is present. This region with the surrounding blank region around the crosshatched region is considered as a jagged space. The user is utilizing this space in this arrangement, but can multiple different arrangements. However, this can be considered as the first packing area as the maximized jagged space since it is being used to pack some type of data and the crosshatched region is a large region being used in figure 14; see fig. 14; paragraph [0067]), defining a second packing area as the left over vertical space (i.e. in using the method of figure 16, an area is defined as the vertical white space or the space above or below the packed space; see fig. 12 and 16; paragraphs [0063]-[0065]), and defining a third packing are as the left over horizontal space (i.e. in using the method of figure 16, an area is defined as the horizontal white

space or the space to the left or right of the packed space; see fig. 12 and 16; paragraphs [0063]-[0065]).

However, Simon et al fails to teach identifying a packed space as irregular.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Doi '360. Doi '360 discloses identifying a packed space as irregular (i.e. when viewing a 3D image, the irregularity of the shape is recognized by a distance measuring device; see col. 3, lines 52-58).

Therefore, in view of Doi '360, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to identifying a packed space as irregular incorporated in the device of Simon et al in order to recognize the irregularity of an image (as stated in Doi '360 col. 3, lines 52-58).

Conclusion

13. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

15. Shields (US Pub No 2003/0163786), which was used as a 103 reference on claims 18, 19, 38 and 39, is also readable on the claims that disclose selecting digital images, opening, continuing and closing of a trial pack. In addition, the above reference reads the newly added limitation of identifying the largest pre-determined print size since it finds an image that can fit a designated area and the system picks the largest image to fit the area and places that in the designated area.

16. Tonomura et al (US Pat 6571054) reads on the claims that state the feature of designating a packing area, determining an image that has yet to be packed and filling the packing area with the image or images in multiple orientations and multiple layouts or trial packs. It also reads on the features of generating multiple trial packs, comparing the trial packs and selecting the trial packs based on the comparison.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chad Dickerson whose telephone number is (571)-270-

1351. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Thur. 9:00-6:30 Fri. 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Aung Moe can be reached on (571)- 272-7314. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CD/ CD
Chad Dickerson
October 25, 2007


AUNG S. MOE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

10/27/07